United Nations S/PRST/2000/29

Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

Following consultations of the whole of the Council, at the 4201st meeting of the Security Council, held on 29 September 2000, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council announced that the following statement on behalf of the Council would be issued as a Presidential statement:

The Security Council expresses its warm appreciation to former President Nelson Mandela, in his capacity as Facilitator of the Arusha peace process in Burundi, for his briefing to the Security Council on 29 September 2000. It commends him for his tireless efforts in the cause of peace in Burundi, and encourages him to continue his efforts.

The Security Council welcomes the signature on 28 August 2000 of the Arusha Peace Accord, as well as the signatures added to that Accord at a regional summit held on 20 September 2000 in Nairobi, Kenya. It commends those Burundian parties, including the Government of Burundi, which have demonstrated their commitment to continued negotiations.

The Security Council stresses that the key to achieving a lasting peace in Burundi lies with the Burundian parties. It is convinced that compromise is the only means to reach such agreement, and to this end urges all parties to work towards resolving remaining differences over the peace accord, and to proceed to its implementation.

The Security Council reiterates its call, in resolution 1286 (2000) of 19 January 2000, on all parties that remain outside the peace process to cease hostilities and to participate fully in that process. In this regard, it supports the call of the Facilitator to the rebel groups to clarify their positions by 20 October 2000.

The Security Council is encouraged by the engagement of regional States. It urges them to continue their efforts, especially to use their influence to draw the armed groups firmly into the peace process.

The Security Council condemns all attacks on civilians populations. It remains deeply concerned at the continuing levels of violence in Burundi, in particular that perpetrated by rebel groups, despite the call made to them for direct negotiations with the Burundian Government to secure a lasting ceasefire agreement.

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The Security Council remains deeply concerned at the dire economic, humanitarian and social conditions in Burundi and calls on all parties to cooperate fully with non-governmental organizations and international organizations involved in the implementation of the agreement. It urges all concerned to ensure that former camp inhabitants are protected, respected and enabled to return voluntarily and in safety and dignity to their home.

The Security Council notes the holding of a meeting of donor countries in Brussels on 15 September 2000. It welcomes the call made at that meeting for progressive resumption of assistance to Burundi, including through development aid, to alleviate its urgent humanitarian and economic problems as it makes progress in its internal peace negotiations. In this regard, it also welcomes the plan to hold a donor conference in Paris in due course.

The Security Council stands ready to consider practical ways in which it can best support the peace process. To this end, the Council requests the Secretary-General urgently to report to it on specific actions the United Nations can undertake in the consolidation of peace and economic recovery in Burundi.

The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter.

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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4215th meeting of the Security Council, held on 31 October 2000, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Admission of new Members", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be admitted as a Member of the United Nations. On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I wish to extend my congratulations to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on this historic occasion.

"The Council notes with great satisfaction the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's solemn commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to fulfil all the obligations contained therein.

"We look forward to the day in the near future when the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will join us as a Member of the United Nations and to working closely with its representatives."

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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4216th meeting of the Security Council, held on 3 November 2000, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Sierra Leone", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its concern at the continued fragile situation in Sierra Leone and the related instability in the wider subregion. It condemns the continued cross-border attacks along the border area of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Council stresses that only through a comprehensive regional approach can security and stability be restored. In this regard, it expresses its support for the efforts undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to address the situation, and calls on Member States to provide support.

"In this context, and following the return of its mission to Sierra Leone, the Security Council welcomes the recommendations made in the mission's report (S/2000/992). It in particular expresses its support for the establishment of a continuous, United Nations-based process for overall strategic coordination on Sierra Leone, bringing together Security Council members, the United Nations Secretariat, ECOWAS, troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the Government of Sierra Leone. The Council notes the Secretary-General's support for this proposal in his report of 31 October 2000 (S/2000/1055) and encourages him to take early steps to put such a process into effect.

"The Security Council underlines that such a coordinated strategy for lasting peace in Sierra Leone must combine both political and military elements. The Council fully supports efforts to strengthen the State institutions of Sierra Leone and to maintain the principles of democratic accountability and the rule of law. It also places emphasis on the humanitarian and human rights aspects. It welcomes the current efforts of ECOWAS to explore the possibilities of dialogue towards peace, but stresses that this should only be pursued under terms acceptable to the Government of Sierra Leone. In this context, the Council underlines the importance of the Revolutionary United Front relinquishing control of the diamond-producing areas, full freedom of movement for UNAMSIL leading to its deployment throughout the country, proper provision for the disarmament and demobilization of all non-governmental forces, full and secure humanitarian access and the extension of

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the authority of the Government throughout its territory. The Council also calls upon those armed groups responsible for continuing human rights abuses to put an immediate end to such activities.

"The Security Council is convinced that the continuation of a credible military presence of the international community in Sierra Leone remains an indispensable element of the peace process. The Council concurs with the Secretary-General's view that a key aspect of the overall approach on Sierra Leone is the continued provision of security by UNAMSIL in key areas of the country. The Council reiterates its view that to achieve this UNAMSIL requires strengthening. The Council also underlines the importance of continued action to improve the effectiveness of UNAMSIL through the full implementation of the recommendations of the May assessment mission. The Council notes the decisions by the Governments of India and Jordan to end their troops' participation in UNAMSIL, and expresses its appreciation for the important contribution made by these two contingents. It also warmly welcomes the new commitments made by Bangladesh and Ghana of additional battalions, by Ukraine of equipment and support personnel and by Slovakia of equipment to enhance the force's capability. The Council urges both departing and incoming contingents to display all possible flexibility to ensure that force capability is maintained as UNAMSIL moves into this period of transition.

"The Security Council supports the appeal by the Secretary-General to Member States, as set out in paragraph 55 of his report, urgently to consider participating in UNAMSIL or otherwise contributing to its reinforcement, and encourages him to intensify his consultations to this end. The Council reiterates its firm intention to take action to strengthen UNAMSIL at the appropriate time, taking into account the readiness of troop-contributing countries to provide sufficient forces to this end."